

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 DHA-02 /069 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4793

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, PINT, CI, ES

SUBJECT: CHILEAN REACTION TO BORGONOVO MURDER

1. ON MAY 11 CHILEAN PRESIDENT PINOCHET SENT CONDOLENCES TO GOS PRESIDENT MOLINA, CALLING THE MURDER OF THE SALVADOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER "A COWARDLY ACT...CONSTITUTING A FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS." AN OFFICIAL FOREIGN MINISTRY STATEMENT SAID THAT "THE CHILEAN PEOPLE JOINED OTHERS EVERYWHERE, BUT PARTICULARLY LATIN AMERICANS, IN EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF EL SALVADOR". THE STATEMENT SAID THAT WHEN "THE SHADOW OF TERRORISM LOOMED OVER CHILE IT WAS STAMPED OUT WITH THE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF ALL SECTORS." THE ASSASSINATION OF BORGONOVO AND THE ATTACK ON ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI "CONFIRMED THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENTS JOINTLY AND ENERGETICALLY TO DENOUNCE THESE ACTS AND ACCEPT THE UNAVOIDABLE OBLIGATION TO ADOPT WHATEVER MEASURES ARE NECESSARY TO PREVENT THEM".

2. PINOCHET, IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTIONS, SAID THE KILLING DEMONSTRATED THE NEED TO KEEP CONTROL OVER POTENTIAL TERRORISTS. HE ADDED HIS THOUGHT THAT "HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BETTER SAFEGUARDED BY CONTROLLING THESE VIOLENT, AGGRESSIVE MURDERIOUS MINORITIES

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THAN LETTING THEM GO FREE TO DO WHATEVER THEY WISH, AS MANY SEEM TO WANT." GOC-OWNED "EL CRONISTA" EMBROIDERED ON THE SAME THEME. IT NOTED THAT WHENEVER GOVERNMENTS (READ THE GOC) SEEK EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM, MARXIST GOVERNMENTS BLOCK THE INITIATIVE, CLAIMING IT THREATENS HUMAN RIGHTS. THE INEVITABLE IMPLICATION, ACCORDING TO "EL CRONISTA", IS THAT MOST TERRORIST ACTIONS ARE BEING ABETTED BY "ONE SINGLE AND

UNIFIED CENTRAL LINE." IT CONCLUDES BY QUOTING CHILE'S OAS
AMBASSADRESS "WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE HOSTAGE?"

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE ASSUME THE GOC SYMPATHIZES WITH THE GOES
DECISION (AS REPORTED HERE) OF NO NEGOTIATION, TO THE BEST OF
OUR KNOWLEDGE IT DID NOT FORMALLY ENDORSE THAT POLICY. "CRONISTA",
HOWEVER, APPROVINGLY QUOTED THE GOES STATEMENT THAT "IF THE
GOVERNMENT
HAD ACCEDED TO THE DEMANDS, ONLY TERRORISTS WOULD BE SAFE".

4. THE GOC AND THE GENERALLY DOCILE MEDIA CONSISTANTLY PLAY UP
DISORDER IN OTHER COUNTRIES, IMPLICITLY CONTRASTING THE INTER-
NATIONAL SCENE WITH CHILEAN TRANQUILITY. WHATEVER THE REACTION
ABROAD, RESTORATION OF PEACE IN CHILE IS A COMMON REASON CHILEANS
GIVE FOR SUPPORTING THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT.
POPPER

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